(b) No contract labourer is being engaged in jobs of permanent or perennial nature. However, 718 casual labourers are being engaged in jobs of perennial nature.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Does not arise in view of (b) above.

Meeting QoS parameters by service providers

1849. SHRIMATI VIPLOVE THAKUR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that no service provider has achieved all the benchmarks prescribed by TRAI for Quality of Service parameters for various services including Wireline (Fixed Line) services in the country particularly in Himachal Pradesh;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether TRAI has recommended any action against the operators for not complying with the QoS parameters, so far;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) As per the Performance Monitoring Report of the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) for the quarter ending 31.03.07, some of the service providers are meeting the benchmarks for all the Quality of Service parameters in some of the service areas including Himachal Pradesh.

(b) According to the service providers, shortage of spectrum and number of Points of Interconnection (POI) are the key factor for degradation to performance and quality of service for wireless access.

(c) to (e) As per Section 29 (penalty for contravention of direction of TRAI) of TRAI Act, 1997, if a person violates the direction of the TRAI, such person shall be punishable with fine as per provisions in TRAI Act, 1997. TRAI has issued a direction on 7th June, 2005 to all service providers to provide Interconnection on the request of the interconnection seeker within 90 days of the applicable payments made by the interconnection seeker. BSNL had gone to TDSAT against this direction. The matter is pending with TDSAT and *sub-judice*.

Downsizing of employees in DoP

†1850. SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI:
SHRI MOTILAL VORA:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the decrease/increase in number of employees of the Department of Posts during the last three years;

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.